

N-LIST: an Indian college libraries perspective

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Abstract: *In the age of digital evolution use of electronic resources or publishing is very essential. Uses of technical advancements provide a platform for librarians to become more technical and professional. This paper describes role of N-LIST Programme and its awareness among the college libraries in India. It also examines impact of e-resources i.e. N-LIST Programme on college libraries and librarians..*

Keywords: *N-LIST Programme, College Library, E-Resources or publishing, etc.*

Introduction:

With the advent of computer technology, more information databases have become available in machine-readable formats and many information systems have been developed and designed for facilitating information retrieval. Computers are being used in libraries to process, store, analyze and disseminate information. Information and communication technology (ICT) has revolutionized every walk of human society. Large scale computerization, invention of the internet and influx of World Wide Web has made extensive and fast dissemination of information and turned world into a global village. Among all academic electronic resources, the advent of electronic journal has been called the greatest revolution in the capture and dissemination of emerging academic knowledge.

The e-resources available in a library play a prominent role in facilitating access to the users in an easy and expeditious manner. The resources like CD-ROM databases, online journals, online books, OPACs and the internet are slowly replacing the importance and usage of print media.

E-Resources:

“Electronic resources” refer to those materials that require computer access, whether through a personal computer, mainframe, or handheld mobile device. They may either be accessed remotely via the Internet or locally. Some of the most frequently encountered types are:

- E-journals
- E-books
- Full-text (aggregated) databases
- Indexing and abstracting databases
- Reference databases (biographies, dictionaries, directories, encyclopedias, etc.)
- Numeric and statistical databases
- E-images
- E-audio/visual resources

Advantages of E-resources:-

The following are the advantages of e-resources over the print media:

- 1) **Multi-access:** A networked product can provide multiple points of access at multiple points in time (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) and to multiple simultaneous users.
- 2) **Speed:** An electronic resource is lot quicker to browse or search, to extract information from, and to integrate that information into other material and to cross-search or reference between different publications.
- 3) **Content:** The e-resources can contain a vast amount of information, but more importantly the

material can consist of mixed media i.e. images, video, audio animation which could not be replaced in print.

4) **Up to date information:** E-resources provide up to date information to the users.

5) **Reservoir:** E-resources are huge information reservoirs.

Apart from these e-resources have multidisciplinary approach, provide various search options, provide easy citation etc.

In the recent years, there has been a phenomenal growth of electronic journals. The impact of electronic journals in academic world is phenomenal. In India academic libraries are considered to be the centers of academic institution. N-LIST programme is also playing an important role in providing authentic information through the e-resources such as e-books, e-journals, bibliographic database etc. to the academic libraries users.

What is N-LIST Programme:

N-LIST stands for "National Library and Information services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content". The programme is funded by the MHRD (Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India) to extend access to selected e-resources to colleges covered under Section 2F/12B of UGC Act as well as Non-aided colleges. More than 6,000 colleges covered under Section 2F/12B of UGC Act non-aided colleges (except Agriculture, Engineering, Medical, Pharmacy and Nursing) are eligible to register with N-LIST programme. These colleges will get access to selected electronic resources including e-journals and e-books. These resources include more than 3100+ e-journals and 75,000+ e-books. All beneficiary colleges should require paying an annual membership fee of Rs. 5000 (Five thousand only). Colleges that are not covered under 2F/12B Act of UGC can join Associate Membership Programme that is specifically being designed for colleges.

N-LIST being jointly executed by the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, INFLIBNET Centre and the INDEST-AICTE Consortium, IIT Delhi provides for

- i) cross-subscription to e-resources subscribed by the two Consortia, i.e. subscription to INDEST-AICTE resources for universities and UGC-INFONET resources for technical institutions; and
- ii) access to selected e-resources to colleges.

The N-LIST project provides access to e-resources to students, researchers and faculty from colleges and other beneficiary institutions through server(s) installed at the INFLIBNET Centre. The authorized users from colleges can access e-resources and download articles required by them directly from the publisher's website once they are duly authenticated as authorized users through servers deployed at the INFLIBNET Centre.

Role of N-LIST Programme:

The role of the N-LIST Programme is as follows:

- 1) To subscribe and provide access to selected UGC-INFONET e-resources to technical institutions (IITs, IISc, IISERs and NITs) and monitor its usage.
- 2) To subscribe and provide access to selected INDEST e-resources to selected universities and monitor its usage.
- 3) To subscribe and provide access to selected e-resources to 6,000 Govt./ Govt.-aided colleges and monitor its usage.
- 4) To act as a Monitoring Agency for colleges and evaluate, promote, impart training and monitor all activities involved in the process of providing effective and efficient access to e-resources to colleges.

N-LIST Programme and E-resources:

The consortium subscribes to the following resources for the colleges. All electronic resources subscribed under N-LIST Programme are available from the publisher's website.

E-Journals (Fulltext):

Sr. no.	Title of E-journals	Website
1	American Institute of Physics (18 titles)	http://journals.aip.org/
2	American Physical Society (10 titles)	http://publish.aps.org/browse.html
3	Annual Reviews (33 titles)	http://arjournals.annualreviews.org/
4	Cambridge University Press (224 titles)	http://journals.cambridge.org/
5	Economic and Political Weekly (EPW) (1 titles)	http://www.epw.in/
6	Indian Journals (150 titles)	http://www.indianjournals.com/
7	Institute of Physics (46 titles)	http://www.iop.org/EJ/
8	JSTOR (2000 titles)	http://www.jstor.org/
9	Oxford University Press (206 titles)	http://www.oxfordjournals.org
10	Royal Society of Chemistry (29 titles)	http://www.rsc.org/Publishing/Journals/
11	H. W. Wilson (1420 titles)	http://vnweb.hwwilsonweb.com/hww/jumpstart.html

E-Books:

Sr. no.	Title of E-Books	Website
1	Cambridge Books Online (1000+ titles)	http://ebooks.cambridge.org
2	E-brary (70000+ titles)	http://site.ebrary.com/lib/inflibnet
3	EBSCoHost-Net Library (936 titles)	http://www.netlibrary.com/
4	Hindustan Book Agency (65+ titles)	http://hindustan.igpublish.com
5	Institute of South East Asian Studies(ISEAS) Books (382+ titles)	http://iseas.igpublish.com
6	Oxford Scholarship (902 titles)	http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/
7	Springer eBooks (1500+ titles)	http://www.springerlink.com .
8	Taylor Francis eBooks (1000+ titles)	http://inflibnet.etailer.dpsl.net .
9	Myilibrary-McGraw Hill (1124 titles)	http://lib.myilibrary.com/
10	Cambridge Books Online (1000+ titles)	http://ebooks.cambridge.org
11	E-brary (70000+ titles)	http://site.ebrary.com/lib/inflibnet

Bibliographic Databases:

Sr. no.	Title of Bibliographic Databases	Website
1	MathSciNet	http://www.ams.org/mathscinet/

E-Resources for universities:

Sr. no.	Title of E- Resources	Website
1	Web of Science	http://isisknowledge.com

E-Resources for Technical Institutions (IITs, IISc, IISERs and NITs)

Sr. no.	Title of E-journals	Website
1	Annual Reviews	http://arjournals.annualreviews.org/
2	Project Muse	http://muse.jhu.edu/
3	Nature	http://www.nature.com/

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The INFLIBNET Consortium subscribes to thousands of electronic journals including full-text electronic resources and bibliographic databases for its member institutions. All electronic resources available through the Consortium are governed by license agreements. The terms and conditions for using these resources are spelled out in license agreements that are signed with each publisher by the INFLIBNET Consortium on behalf of its member institutions. The licenses for electronic resources impose two types of restrictions on its usage

- ❖ Who can use these resources? and
- ❖ How the resources can be used?

The first restriction defines authorized users for e-resources, which generally includes students, faculty, staff and onsite visitors of a subscribing institution. The second restriction deals with how these resources can be used. It is the responsibility of individual users to ensure that e-resources are used for personal, educational and research purposes only. Most of the agreements entered into by the Consortium and publishers specify items that users are prohibited to do. Some of them are as follows:

- 1) Systematic or programmatic downloading, retention, and printing are prohibited. For example, you cannot download entire issue of a journal or print out several copies of the same article.
- 2) Electronic distribution of content is also restricted although the specific restrictions vary from publisher to publisher. It may be permissible to forward an article to another colleague in your own institution by email, however, transmitting an article to someone outside of the institution, or to a large group of recipients, a mailing list, or an electronic bulletin board, is not allowed.
- 3) If you are teaching a class, you can print out a copy of an article from an electronic journal and include it in your course pack. However, do not make multiple copies for circulation. Copyright laws protect published material in any format so that it cannot be copied except in accordance with fair use. Providing access to material for educational purposes falls within the realm of fair use.
- 4) Please ensure that the resource is used for educational and research purposes and not for commercial purposes.
- 5) Providing electronic links on your course web pages to the Library's licensed resources is permitted but you cannot post the PDF of an article on your website. The publishers' main concern is that people outside of your campus network should not be able to access resources licensed by your institution. However, a researcher can post a pre-print of an article written by himself.
- 6) As with any kind of scholarly communication, a researcher can use phrases or quotes from other articles and cite the source of information. However, a researcher is prohibited from using large chunk of information (paras and chapters) from an article or from a chapter in a book.

If the License is violated:

Publishers track the use of their electronic resources in terms of number of downloads made by subscribing institution. Misuse, if any, is notified to the subscribing institution with details of kinds of violations and institution is expected to take action. The publisher also suspends the access to e-resource pending suitable action by subscribing institution. The access is stopped not only for journals where license agreement was violated but for all journals by the same publisher. Moreover, the access

is suspended not only for the individual violator but for the entire institution.

Conditions of Use and Licensing Restrictions for Electronic Resources:

The Consortium subscribes to thousands of electronic journals and bibliographic databases for use by authorized users in member institutions. The terms and conditions for using these resources are spelled out in electronic resource license agreements with each publisher. It is the responsibility of individual users to ensure that the use of electronic resources does not breach the terms and conditions specified in the license agreements. Licenses vary from publisher to publisher; however, the general principles are as follows:

Sr. No.	Permitted	Not Permitted
1	Viewing, downloading, copying, printing and saving a copy of search results	Use of robots or intelligent agents to do systematic, bulk or automatic downloading is not permitted
2	Viewing, downloading, copying, printing and saving individual articles	Systematic downloading or printing of entire journal issues or volumes, or large portions of other e-resources is not permitted
3	Using e-resources for scholarly, educational or scientific research, teaching, private study and clinical purposes	Using e-resources for commercial gain is not permitted (i.e. reselling, redistributing or republishing licensed content)
4	Sending a copy of an article to another authorized user (i.e. current faculty, students or staff)	Transmitting, disseminating or otherwise making online content available to unauthorized users (i.e. sending to mailing lists or electronic bulletin boards) is not permitted
5	Posting the URL to the publisher's version of the article on a class website (publisher links will allow only authorized users access)	Posting the publisher's version or PDF of an article to an open class website is not permitted (instead, post the URL to the article which will allow only authorized users access)

Conclusion:

As on Mar. 01, 2013, a total number of 3208 colleges have registered themselves with the N-LIST programme including 2927 Govt. / Govt. aided colleges covered under the section 12 B/2F of UGC Act as well as Non-Aided college. It shows good awareness among the college libraries/librarians in India. It also reveals that most of the college libraries and librarians are using computer technology in their respective institution. College librarians need to be deeply study on the issues of licensing and fair use for electronic publishing.

N-LIST Programme offers the best possible discounted prices negotiated between N-LIST and publishers. Therefore, it is the best way to subscribe e-resources for the college library. Each and every librarian from Indian college library should try to join N-LIST Programme.



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